



PATENT  
450100-03538

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicants : Mitsuyuki Hatanaka, et al.  
Serial No. : 09/975,827  
For : INFORMATION PROCESSING APPARATUS AND METHOD, AND  
PROGRAM STORING MEDIUM  
Filed : October 11, 2001  
Examiner : Gyorfi, Thomas A.  
Art Unit : 2135  
Confirmation No. : 2274

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**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Mail Stop RCE  
Commissioner for Patents  
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Sir:

Prior to examination on the merits, please amend the above-identified application

as follows:

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 3 of this paper.

**Remarks/Arguments** begin on page 7 of this paper.